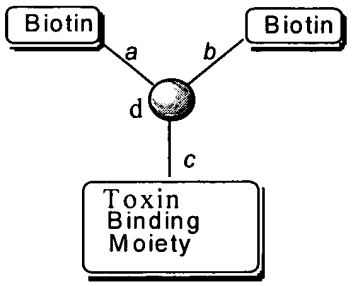
IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method for the conditioning of ~~an~~ a multipurpose extracorporeal device for the extraction of toxic material from mammalian body fluids in connection with diagnosis or treatment of a mammalian condition or disease, comprising passing a solution containing a reagent represented as follows:



wherein the Biotin represents ~~natural~~ biotin or derivatives thereof which bind to avidin and streptavidin,

wherein a, b, and c are linkers, which are the same or different, and which represent linear or branched ether, thioether or amine functionalities,

wherein a and b provide between about 20Å and 60Å between each biotin moiety carboxylate carbon atom when measured in a fully linearized form, and

wherein d is a trifunctional crosslinking moiety,

through a device containing biotin binding molecules selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin or derivatives or fragments thereof having essentially the same binding function to biotin as avidin or streptavidin, wherein the reagent through the

two biotins is bound to the biotin binding molecule of device, and whereby said device is converted from a biotin binding to a toxic material binding device.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the tri-functional cross-linking moiety, containing three functional groups that are nucleophilic or are reactive with nucleophiles, is an aliphatic or aromatic compound.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the toxin binding moiety is a molecule that binds with high affinity to a toxic material with or without an effector molecule and is chosen from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies including fragments or engineered counterparts thereof, aptamers, peptides, oligodeoxy-nuclosides including binding fragments thereof, intercalation reagents including dyes, chemotherapy agents, natural substances and metal chelates that specifically bind with toxic material with or without an effector molecule or to an effector molecule attached to the toxic material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the linkers a, b, and c comprises ~~is linear or branched and contains water solubilizing functionalities or~~ side groups containing amines, carboxylates or hydroxyl functionalities ~~for improving the stability towards enzymatic cleavage of the biotinamide bond between the biotin moiety or a derivative thereof and the spacer~~.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the biotin derivatives are chosen from the group consisting of norbiotin, homobiotin, oxybiotin, iminobiotin, desthiobiotin, diaminobiotin, biotin sulfoxide, biotin sulfone or other biotin molecules having the ability to bind to avidin, streptavidin and derivatives thereof.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

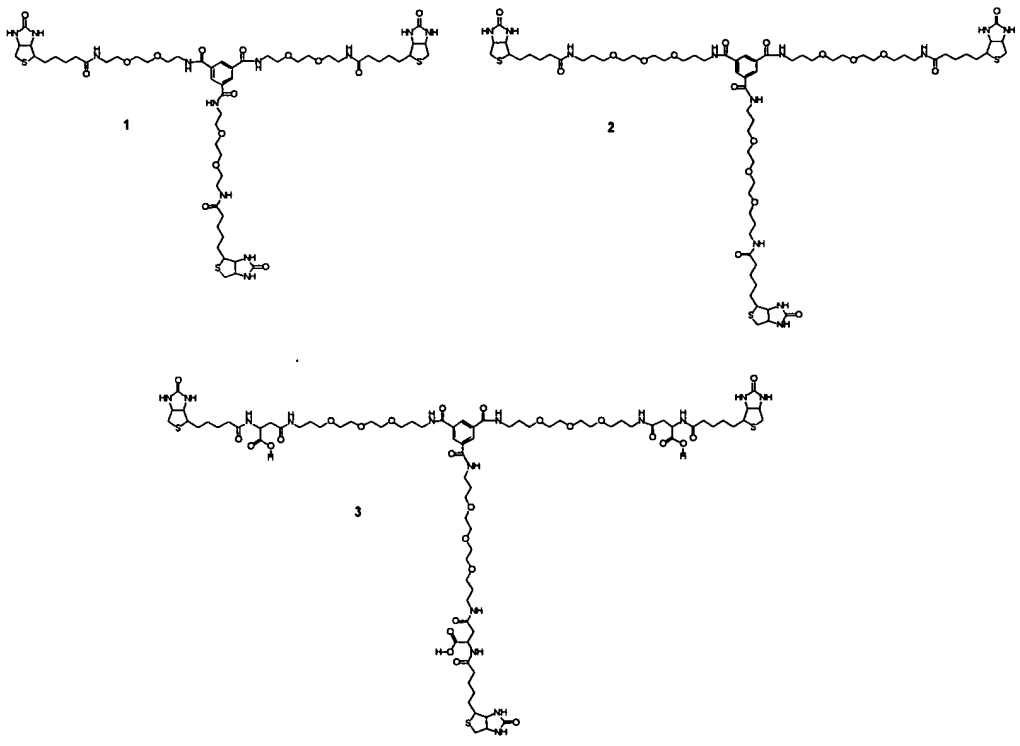
Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 3, wherein the toxin binding moiety has the ability to bind with high affinity to a toxic material selected from the group consisting of metal ions, chemotherapy agents, free radionuclides, radionuclides bound to other compounds, ingested toxins, toxins produced by bacteria, toxins produced by viral infections, toxins produced by disease states, diseased cells, cells involved in the immune response, anti-blood group antibodies, anti-HLA antibodies, anti-xenoantibodies or any other undesirable endogenous component present in bodily fluid at an undesirable level as a result of a disease, disorder or incompatibility with therapeutic treatment or any exogenous component that is or could be involved in a disease, disorder or medical incompatibility, preferably biotin binding molecules.

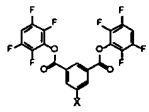
Claim 8 (Canceled)

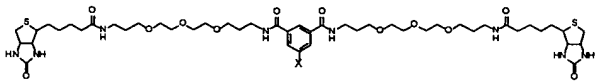
Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 3, wherein the effector molecule is a radionuclide, a cytotoxic agent, a chelating agent for binding of radionuclides, a chemotherapy agent, a natural toxin ~~or a derivative thereof~~, or a synthetic toxin.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the toxin binding moiety is biotin, the spacers a, b, and c are 4, 7, 10-trioxa-, 13-tridecanediamine and the trifunctional cross-linking moiety is 5-amino-1, 3-dicarboxybenzene.

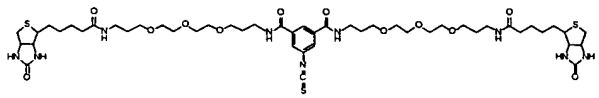
Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein said reagent is selected from the group consisting of:







5: X = NH - tBoc
6: X = NH$_2$



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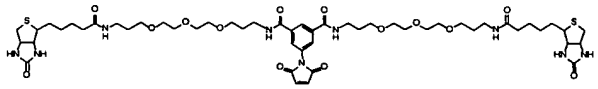

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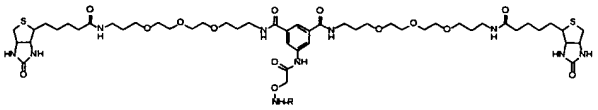
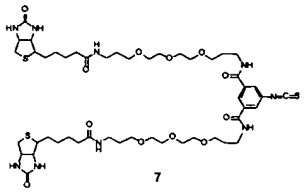


9: X = tBoc
10: X = H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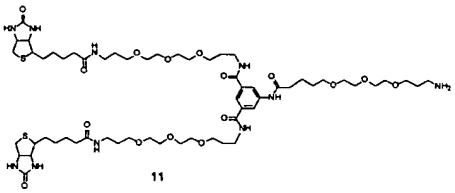
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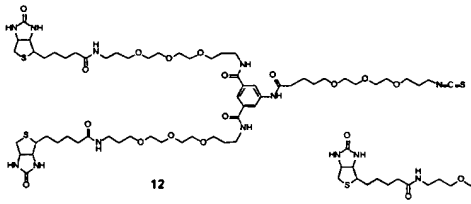
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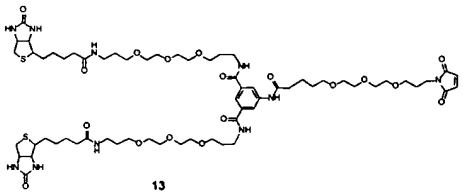
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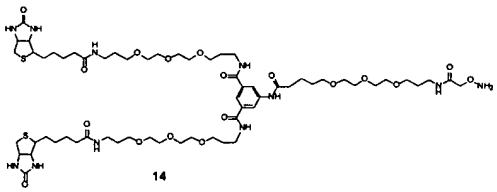
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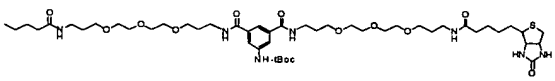
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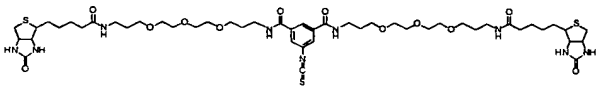
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Claims 12-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 2, wherein said compound is an aromatic compound with 1,3,5 substitution.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 12, wherein said aromatic compound is a derivative of 1,3,5 benzene tricarboxylic acid; 3,5 diaminobenzoic acid; or 5 amino 1,3-dicarboxybenzene.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the linkers contains an alpha carboxylate or an N methyl group.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the toxins produced by bacteria are endotoxins or enterotoxins and said exogenous component is TNF or cytokinins.